

Premier Wen Jiabao Holds Telephone Talks with His British Counterpart Gordon Brown

September 28, 2007

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao talked with his British counterpart Gordon Brown on the situation in Myanmar by telephone on the evening of September 28, 2007.

In the conversation, Brown said that the international community is greatly concerned with the situation in Myanmar, expecting the Southeast Asian nation to restore stability, realize reconciliation and start political process as soon as possible. The British side hopes that China will continue to exert positive influence to achieve a proper settlement of the problem in Myanmar, and is willing to keep closer contacts and communication with the Chinese side, said the British prime minister.

Premier Wen, for his part, said that China is very much concerned with the situation in Myanmar. China hopes that all parties concerned in Myanmar show restraint, resume stability through peaceful means as soon as possible, promote domestic reconciliation and achieve democracy and development, he said. The international community needs to offer constructive assistance for the final settlement of the Myanmar problem, he added. The Chinese premier said that China will continue to work with the international community to actively facilitate the proper solution to the problem in Myanmar.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on Myanmar Issue

September 27, 2007

As a neighbor of Myanmar, China follows closely the situation there. China hopes that all parties in Myanmar exercise restraint and properly handle the current issue so as to ensure the situation there free from further escalation and complication. Myanmar's stability should not be affected. Neither should peace and stability in the region be affected.

We hope that Myanmar be devoted to improving people's welfare, maintaining national harmony and properly dealing with its domestic social conflicts so as to restore stability at an early date.

China noted that the Security Council held consultation on the situation in Myanmar and the Chairman of the Council talked to the press on the issue. China believes that the international community should provide constructive assistance to the alleviation of the domestic situation in Myanmar. China supports the mediation efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Special Envoy Gambari.

China hopes that the international press can be truthful in reporting and cover the issue objectively rather than hyping up the issue. We have noted that a very few press unleashed some accusation against China, which is vicious defamation.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 24 2007

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of August 29 urging a formal meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Burma.

We are deeply concerned about the recent crackdown in Burma and have issued a number of statements condemning this most recent repression by the military regime. We continue to coordinate closely with other like-minded countries and key players in the region to bring increasing pressure on the regime to change its policies. We have also raised our concerns with UN Secretary General Ban and Special Envoy Gambari and encouraged them to speak out strongly as well. We agree that the political and human rights situation there is a matter that the UN Security Council should take up urgently, so we are pleased that Special Envoy Gambari will brief the Council in informal consultations on September 20. We are encouraging Special Envoy Gambari to travel to Burma as soon as possible, and we are working directly with Security Council members and other international partners to build support for a formal meeting of the Security Council on Burma following his return from Burma.

In addition to pursuing the Security Council's engagement on Burma, we will use the platform provided by the UN General Assembly to highlight the regime's repression of peaceful demonstrators and its other abuses against the Burmese people. We believe that an international community that is united and vocal in its criticism of the regime is the best vehicle for bringing about the kinds of changes we seek, as well as give hope and support to those in Burma struggling to bring democracy to their country.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey T. Bergner".

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Dianne Feinstein,
United States Senate.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 29, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

The current situation in Burma merits a strong and meaningful response by our government. We write to urge you to immediately initiate an emergency, formal meeting on Burma at the United Nations Security Council.

Over the past several days, as was reported in the press around the world, Burma's military regime has carried out a widespread crackdown on human rights and democracy activists throughout the country. These repressive measures have come in response to the largest non-violent demonstrations in Burma in five years.

Many of the activists who have been imprisoned as a result of this crackdown were reportedly beaten and carted off in trucks after protesting on the streets of Rangoon and Burma's other major cities. Those arrested include Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi, two of Burma's most prominent democracy activists. Many of these activists reportedly face life sentences for exercising the fundamental right of political expression. These actions by the regime are appalling even in light of the junta's longstanding and well-documented record of repression.

We applaud the State Department for swiftly condemning the regime's brutal behavior. France and the United Kingdom, two other permanent members of the Security Council, have issued similar condemnations, along with Canada, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark, the European Union, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. However, at this critical juncture, words of support from the world's democracies are not enough. The matter needs to be addressed by the UN Security Council.

During the past year, the United States led a successful diplomatic effort to place Burma on the permanent agenda of the Security Council, where it remains. We must avail ourselves of this diplomatic forum; the brave people of Burma deserve no less.

We urge you to send a letter to the President of the Security Council requesting that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, at a minimum, thoroughly brief the Council on the situation in Burma.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,


MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
UNITED STATES SENATOR